



July 30, 2019

Ms. Emma Best

via email: 75434-80433660@requests.muckrock.com

RE: FOIA No. 2019-IGFP-00439

Dear Ms. Best:

This responds to your June 17 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for records related to OIG investigation 06UIRF1299CI2IO. On July 16, we received your follow up correspondence for status of your request. As explained in our July 17 email acknowledging receipt of your request, we could find no record of having received your original request and apologize for the delay.

As our FOIA program continues to evolve, we are encouraging requesters to submit requests, with all attachments, via email at foia@uspsoig.gov. Additionally, this speeds up our ability to conduct a search for responsive documents and issue our final determination.

We reviewed two Reports of Investigation, consisting of ten pages, associated with this case file and determined two pages are appropriate for release without redaction; copies are attached. Also attached are eight pages appropriate for release with redactions made under FOIA Exemptions (b)(3) and (b)(7)(c), 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(3)¹ and (b)(7)(c)².

If you have questions regarding the processing of this request, you may contact me at 703-248-2410. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at

¹ Exemption (b)(3) provides agencies may withhold records exempted from disclosure by another statute that "establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld." Under the Inspector General Act of 1978, an OIG is duty bound to protect information provided by agency employees during an investigation. Public Law 95-452 5 U.S.C. app. 3 § 7(b).

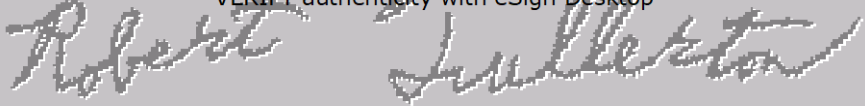
² Exemption (7)(C) permits the withholding of records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, the release of which could constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of third parties. Lacking an individual's consent or an overriding public interest, third party investigatory records and/or allegations of misconduct must be withheld under Exemption (7)(C). This includes the names of, or identifying statements made by, any persons making allegations against the subject of an OIG investigation. The withheld material includes third-party interviews which must be protected to provide the confidence necessary to encourage cooperation with law enforcement agencies. None of the information being withheld is appropriate for discretionary disclosure.

ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with our action on your FOIA request, you may file an administrative appeal. To do so, write to the attention of Gladis Griffith, Deputy General Counsel, 1735 N. Lynn Street, Arlington, VA 22209-2020, within 90 days of the date of this letter. We accept written appeals via U.S. Mail; e-mail to FOIA@uspsoig.gov; or fax to 703-248-4626. Include the initial request number (e.g., 20XX-IGXX-00XXX) and the date of this letter. Explain what specific action the FOIA Office took that you are appealing. Mark all correspondence "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

E-Signed by Fullerton, Robert
VERIFY authenticity with eSign Desktop



A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Fullerton". Above the signature, the text "E-Signed by Fullerton, Robert" and "VERIFY authenticity with eSign Desktop" is displayed. A small yellow circular icon with a question mark is located in the top right corner of the box.

Robert Fullerton
Manager – FOIA, Policy, and Records

Attachment